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The invention relates to a method of providing a user with information on the operation of the portable device and to a portable device. In the device, such a tone is produced that, due to a tone feature, can be distinguished from background noise. This feature can be tone frequency, duration, volume or moment of time. The device can analyse background noise automatically, and based on this, it adjusts at least one feature of the tone automatically such that the tone can be distinguished from background noise, and the background noise does not mask out the tone. Alternatively, the user himself can adjust the tone frequency or duration in a desired way so that it would be distinguished from background noise more clearly.